



OCTOBER 21, 2019 - 10AM-6PM
ANDERSON CENTER, RED WING, MINNESOTA



Farmland Access Hub:

Renewing the Countryside, Compeer Financial, The Conservation Fund, Dakota County, Farmers' Legal Action Group, The Good Acre, Hmong American Partnership, Hmong American Farmers Association, Iroquois Valley Farms, Lakewinds Food Co-op, Land for Good, Land Stewardship Project, Main Street Project, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, Mighty Axe Hops, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Farmers Union, Minnesota Food Association/The Food Group, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Sustainable Farming Association, Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust, University of Minnesota Extension , + more organizations joining every year... you can join us too!

gotfarmland.org

Farmland Summit Sponsors



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The Farmland Access Hub is supported with funding from a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant.

- 10:00 - 10:20 **Introduction - Jan Joannides**, Renewing the Countryside
- Welcome - Thom Petersen**, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- 10:20 - 11:00 **Voices from the Countryside - perspectives on access and transfer from the Upper Midwest**
- Panelists:* Fred Kirschenmann, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture; Kate Graham, Fafinski Mark & Johnson P.A.; Jennifer Nelson, Humble Pie Farm; and Jaime Villalaz, Latino Economic Development Center
Moderated by Commissioner Thom Petersen
- 11:00 - 11:30 **Framing the Issues & Trends in Farmland Access and Transfer**
- Kathy Ruhf, Land for Good
Holly Rippon-Butler, National Young Farmers Coalition
- 11:30 - 11:45 **Farmland Access Hub—Overview**
- Julie Ristau, Main Street Project
- 11:45 - 12:30 **Stories From the Farmland Access Hub**
- Panelists:* Kate Edwards and Brett Olson, Renewing the Countryside, Kristen Pearson, Pearson Organics
Moderated by Greg Padget, Practical Farmers of Iowa
- 12:30- 1:30 **Lunch**
- 1:30 - 3:45 **Successful Models - Introduced by Karen Stettler**, Land Stewardship Project
- California Farm Link - Creating a Robust System of Support**
Liya Schwartzman, California Farm Link
- Hudson Valley Farmlink Network & NY State efforts**
Suzanna Denison, American Farmland Trust
- Farmland Easements & Balancing Finances**
Sam Smith, Intervale Center
- PCC Farmland Trust - How a Natural Food Co-op Got into the Business of Farmland**
Amy Moreno-Sills, PCC Farmland Trust
- 3:45 - 4:00 **Break**
- 4:00 - 4:30 **Strategies to Shift our Trajectory**
- Susan Stokes, Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson
- 4:30 - 6:00 **Breakout Discussions and Identifying Opportunities for Action**
- 6:00 – 7:00 **Reception** (Cash bar and light refreshments)

Speaker Bios

Suzanna Denison, American Farmland Trust
Suzanna currently serves as the Program Manager and a Land Access Trainer for the Farms for the Next Generation national initiative.

Kate Edwards, Wild Woods Farm
Kate is a Farmland Access Navigator for Renewing the Countryside in Iowa and farmer/owner of Wild Woods Farm serving the Iowa City area residents with CSA shares.

Kate Graham, Fafinski Mark & Johnson P.A.
Kate is an Associate in the Agriculture and Trusts & Estates practice groups and uses her experience working on farms and with farmers to serve her clients' legal needs including estate planning, farm succession planning, elder law, and agriculture and food law matters.

Jan Joannides, Renewing the Countryside
Jan is the Executive Director of Renewing the Countryside. She is an advocate and organizer for rural communities and citizens who are working to stimulate economic growth and enhance their communities through sustainable uses of their landscapes and resources.

Fred Kirschenmann,
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture
Fred is a champion of agricultural resilience, an articulate advocate for soil health and a pioneer of organic farming. His work has helped transform what was once obscure and marginal work—resilient, sustainable agriculture focused on the health and restoration of the soil—into an international movement.

Amy Moreno-Sills, PCC Farmland Trust
Amy Moreno-Sills has been a farmer and land conservation advocate for 20+ years. As owner and operator of Four Elements Farm in Pierce County, Amy is excited to help support the viability of farmers and farmland in that community through her coordination of the Farm to Farmer project at PCC Farmland Trust.

Jennifer Nelson, Humble Pie Farm
Jennifer and her husband co-own Humble Pie Flower Farm in Plum City, Wisconsin. She is a Farmland Access Navigator in Wisconsin and also is as an Organic Specialist with MOSES.

Brett Olson, Renewing the Countryside
Brett Olson is co-founder and the Creative Director at Renewing the Countryside. He works on community and local foods system development and is a Farmland Access Navigator in Minnesota.

Greg Padget, Practical Farmers of Iowa
Greg oversees the Next Generations programming at PFI ensuring resources, events and learning opportunities are available for beginning farmers and farmers looking to transition their farm and land.

Kristen Pearson, Pearson Organics
Kristin owns and operates a farm in Oronoco and sells her produce in Rochester and the Twin Cities through Community Supported Agriculture and wholesale accounts.

Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Commissioner Petersen is a long-time resident of Royalton Township near Pine City where he lives on a horse farm. Before being appointed Commissioner, Petersen served as the Director of Government Relations for Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) since 2002, working on behalf of MFU's farmer-members in both Washington, D.C. and St. Paul.

Holly Rippon-Butler,
National Young Farmers Coalition
Holly grew up on her family's multi-generation dairy and beef farm in Upstate New York, where she continues to farm with her parents. Holly's work focusses on the intersection of food, farmland protection, and policy.

Julie Ristau, Main Street Project
Julie grew up on a small diversified farm in Southern Minnesota and has years of professional experience in the agriculture arena

founding Principle of Regeneration LLC and co-founding Homegrown Minneapolis, the city's local Urban Agriculture and Food initiative.

Kathy Ruhf, Land for Good
Kathy is a nationally recognized leader in farm entry, succession and tenure. She has co-authored guidebooks, managed projects, led workshops and worked closely with farm families on these topics.

Liya Schwartzman, California Farm Link
Liya has supported hundreds of farmers and ranchers in accessing land, securing strong tenure agreements, exploring financing, and facilitating farmland and business succession plans.

Sam Smith, Intervale Center
Sam has worked as both a livestock and vegetable farmer, and has been involved in the Vermont agricultural community for over 15 years.

Karen Stettler, Land Stewardship Project
Karen has worked in LSP's Farm Beginnings program for over 20 years, 8 of which have been focused on Land Access and Farm Transitions. Karen has worked with retiring farmers as they are beginning their farm transition planning and beginning farmers in various stages of land access.

Susan Stokes, Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson
Susan has experience in a broad range of practice areas, including employment law, administrative law, and agricultural law. She recently served as Assistant Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, where she oversaw much of the agency's regulatory work.

Jaime Villalaz,
Latino Economic Development Center
Jaime is a business development specialist for the Latino Economic Development Center and works with Latino farmers in farmland access and market development.